

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 03074 01 OF 02 301933Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 FMC-01 OIC-02

CG-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 STR-04 JUSE-00 /110 W
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R 301921Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 0394
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 03074

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PAGE 02 OECD P 03074 01 OF 02 301933Z

DEPT PASS MARAD FOR BOURDON; FMC FOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING, JAN.27-28

1. OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MET JANUARY 27-28. WORM OF DENMARK IN THE CHAIR. AGENDA AND SUMMARY RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETING WERE ADOPTED.

2. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING MATTERS -
THE SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT RATES ARE DEPRESSED, CARGO OFFERINGS ARE OFF AND THE PICTURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE OPTIMISTIC FOR INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

3. TANKER SITUATION -
DELEGATIONS REITERATED GENERAL GLOOMY SITUATION WITH MANY TANKERS IDLE AND SHIP ORDERS OFF. SWEDEN SUGGESTED SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON TANKERS. SECRETARIAT SKEPTICAL RE AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH A GROUP IN COUNCIL DUE TO BUDGET IMPLICATIONS. INTEREST IN QUESTION OF WHETHER US TANKER OPERATORS COULD PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AND IN FORMULATING SOLUTIONS DUE TO US ANTI-TRUST RESTRICTIONS. GROUP AGREED TO KEEP SUBJECT ON AGENDA AND SECRETARIAT WILL KEEP MTC INFORMED. CHAIRMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO CALL LATER MEETING ON SUBJECT UPON RECEIPT OF REPORT OF INDUSTRY TANKER FORUM. US DEL AGREED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF US ANTI-TRUST IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE JOINT INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED WORKING GROUP.

4. COMPETITION FROM STATE TRADING COUNTRIES -
THREAT OF EASTERN BLOC SHIPPING, AS THIRD FLAG CARRIER, TO CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND TO TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENTS EMPHASIZED BY FRG AND OTHERS. MOST DELEGATES ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF PROBLEM AND AGREED TO RAISE MATTER IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY USSR, WITH WHICH THEY HAVE JOINT COMMISSIONS OR OTHER REGULAR FORA. HOWEVER, THEY AGREED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OECD P 03074 01 OF 02 301933Z

AT THIS TIME TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION. OECD MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE TO QUANTIFY PROBLEM AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION. US DEL ADDED THAT COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED. MTC TO SERVE AS FOCAL POINT OR CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION IN THIS AREA.

5. UNCTAD -
DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT WORK ON COMMON SHIPPING POLICY

MUST BE IMPROVED. LACK OF INITIATIVE IN GROUP OF 77
MAY GIVE GROUP B OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE INFLUENCE.
AFTER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, MTC AGREED TO KEEP UNCTAD
CODE OF CONDUCT MATTERS ON MTC AGENDA AND TO REVIEW
DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY ARISE. IT WAS AGREED THAT SUCH
REVIEWS WOULD INCLUDE ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION AND BE
SUBJECT TO DEBATE AND/OR DISCUSSION. NO AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED REGARDING POSSIBLE STUDIES RELATED TO THE CODE
AT THIS TIME. AS EXPECTED, ATTITUDES DURING DEBATE
REFLECTED EACH PARTY'S RESPECTIVE STAND ON CODE ITSELF.

6. SHIPPING POLICY MATTERS -

THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST
IN THE FIELD OF SHIPPING POLICY. US DEL REPORTED ON
NEW US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT, THE STATUS OF THE
"THIRD FLAG BILL" AND ON OTHER POSSIBLE US LEGISLATION.
THE COMMITTEE ALSO REVIEWED REPORTS FROM GREECE AND
JAPAN ON THE CONCLUSION OF MARITIME AGREEMENTS WITH
THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC RESPECTIVELY. ADDITIONAL

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PAGE 01 OECD P 03074 02 OF 02 301932Z

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PAGE 02 OECD P 03074 02 OF 02 301932Z

INFORMATION REGARDING THE CARIBBEAN MULTI-NATIO-
MULTI-NATIONAL MERCHANT FLEET WAS ALSO PROVIDED TO
THE COMMITTEE BY THE UK. THE CHILIAN PREFERENCE
DECREE WAS RAISED BY THE BELGIAN DELEGATION.

7. SELECTION OF NEXT CHAIRMAN -

IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL ,
CONTENDERS, DR. JANSSEN OF THE NETHERLANDS WAS SELECTED
TO BE CHAIRMAN AND BERTIL VOSS OF SWEDEN WAS SELECTED
TO BE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN (FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL
NOW HAVE A GREATER ROLE IN THE PREPARATION AND EXECU-
TION OF COMMITTEE WORK). ROWLAND OF AUSTRALIA (WHO
WAS NOT PRESENT) WAS SELECTED AGAIN TO BE SECOND VICE-
CHAIRMAN. THE FORMAL ELECTIONS WILL OCCUR AT THE NEXT
MEETING. US DEL HAS BEEN PRIVATELY INFORMED BY JANSSEN
AND VOSS THAT NEITHER WOULD HOLD POSITIONS IN CONSULT-
ATIVE SHIPPING GROUP (CSG) DURING TENURE OF THEIR NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES IN MTC. EACH FULLY UNDERSTANDS USG
POSITION REGARDING SEPARATION OF CSG AND MTC. US DEL
INFORMED THAT NEW CSG CHAIRMAN WILL MOST LIKELY BE
GERRY LANCHIN OF UK. LANCHIN HAS INFORMED US THAT HE
PERSONALLY FEELS MTC SHOULD BE FOCAL POINT FOR GROUP B
SHIPPING POLICY DISCUSSIONS.

8. IN SESSION OF WORKING GROUP ON FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE HELD EARLIER IN WEEK, FUTURE WORK PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED AND INFORMAL PROPOSALS BY FRENCH DELEGATION WERE DISCUSSED. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, WG DECIDED TO ATTEMPT AT NEXT MEETING TO "HARMONIZE VIEWS" BEFORE THE ILO CONFERENCE OF OCTOBER 1976 WHICH WOULD HAVE BEFORE IT A "DRAFT CONVENTION CONCERNING SUBSTANDARD SHIPS, PARTICULARLY THOSE UNDER FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE". US DEL INFORMED GROUP THAT BECAUSE OF EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN QUESTIONS OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICY, US DEL COULD NOT INDICATE THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A HARMONIZATION EXERCISE.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS -
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PAGE 03 OECD P 03074 02 OF 02 301932Z

NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF MTC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22-24 WITH MEETING OF FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE GROUP ON EITHER JUNE 21 OR JUNE 25. MTC HAS SET ASIDE APRIL 13 FOR POSSIBLE SPECIAL MEETING ON TANKER SITUATION CONTINGENT UPON TIMELY RECEIPT OF REPORT BY INTERNATIONAL TANKER FORUM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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